

REMARKS

In the Office Action, claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Downes (U.S. Pat. No. 6,029,980).

As can be noted from a review of the Downes patent, and as indicated by the Examiner in the Office Action, the protrusions of the Downes patent “are radially parallel to the shaft.”

In contrast, as now defined in amended claim 1, the protrusions extend in a direction parallel to a longitudinal axis of the shaft or in a direction perpendicular to the direction of the protrusions in the Downes patent. Accordingly, claim 1, as amended, is patentably distinguished over the Downes patent. In addition, new dependent claims 2 through 9 have been added to further define additional features of the present invention.

Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the claims in the present application, as they now stand, patentably distinguish over the references cited and applied by the Examiner and are, therefore, in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is in order, and such favorable action and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

However, if after reviewing the above amendments and remarks, the Examiner has any questions or comments, he is cordially invited to contact the undersigned attorneys.

Respectfully submitted,

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